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MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL DEBATES

OFFICIAL REPORT

Thursday, the 11th May 1939

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bound to differ but not to be courteous or to be patient. I am glad that the Bill has been commented upon in broad terms even as I interpret what fell from Sir Frank Birley. If I heard him correctly, I think that he admitted that it has broadened the basis of taxation and it has shifted the burden from the poor to those who are not so poor. That is the main motive of this measure and that is the main justification for this measure. Details can and will always be open to correction. It is the main purpose that is the important part of any measure and I am glad to see, even though there has been a substantial difference of opinion between other schools of thought and the Government, this fact has emerged and that is, that it has shifted the burden from the rich to the poor and it is a matter for great consolation. I move that the Bill be approved by the House and passed in law."

The motion was put and carried and the Bill was passed into law.

The House then adjourned *sine die*.

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Parents' consent, if any, for teaching Hindi compulsorily in schools.

* 234 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR: With reference to the Hon. the Prime Minister's reply to the Budget debate in the Council, will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the consent of the parents is being obtained in the schools wherein Hindi is taught compulsorily; and

(*b*) whether he is prepared to allow freedom to the boys to choose to learn Hindi or not?

THE HON. SRI C. J. VARKEY:—"(*a*) & (*b*). Hindustani is taught as part of the course in Forms I to III. The teaching of no subject is made dependent on the opinions of individual pupils or parents where no question of religious or conscientious objection is involved."

SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR:—"My question relates to the statement made by the Hon. the Prime Minister at the time of the Budget debate. May I ask the Hon. the Prime Minister now whether he countermands that statement?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"It is not a supplementary question."

SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR:—"It is directly opposite to the statement made by the Hon. the Prime Minister. That is why I am asking the question."

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The answer given by the Minister for Education is not contrary at all to anything that I said anywhere." (Laughter.)

SRI L. SUBBA RAO:—"May I ask whether there is any objection raised by the parents in regard to this matter?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I do not think it arises out of this question; but as far as I am aware, the parent of not a single boy objected out of the 30,000 pupils. The parent of one girl wanted his girl to be withdrawn, and that girl was permitted to be withdrawn."

SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether the Government have made any arrangements to consult the parents on this matter?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"There is no necessity for any special arrangements, Sir. There is sufficient agitation of which the hon. the Leader of the Opposition is aware. Parents all know their rights; they pay the fees every month, they send their children to school, willingly, it is presumed."

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SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR:—"The Hon. the Prime Minister asks me to let him know the contradiction that I referred to. He said it was not compulsory in regard to Hindi. Was that not included along with English and other subjects about which the boys or parents have no option to say whether they are willing to study that subject or not?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"If it is a question of argument, English is taught as part of the course in Forms I to III. Arithmetic is taught as part of the course in Forms I to III, and Hindustani also is taught as part of the course in Forms I to III. There is some amount of compulsion and the same amount, I presume, in respect of all."

SRI T. C. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—"Is there any provision for parents being consulted in respect of other subjects?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"The position is perfectly clear, Sir. The parents are not consulted with reference to each item of the curriculum. The parents make up their minds; the children make up their minds, and the curriculum is published. If you call any particular subject compulsory in one sense, it is right, because it is part of the curriculam, but there is no compulsion in it."

SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR:—"Is it not a fact that there is a group called optional subjects?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"If a distinction is made between optional and Group A, we may say that this is Group A. Even optional is compulsory. One optional must be taken. The option is only between some subjects and not altogether."

SRI RAO BAHADUR N. R. SAMIAPPA MUDALIYAR:—"My question is whether Government will be pleased to make this one of the optionals?".

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"I shall again consider the proposal, Sir." (Laughter.)

Municipalities which have opened beggar homes and Government control over beggars.

*235 *Q.*—SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of municipalities that have already opened and contemplate opening "beggar homes" to control the movements of beggars and thus check the beggar nuisance;

THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Thursday, 18th May, 1939.

The House met in the Banqueting Hall, Government House, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. President (THE HON. DR. U. RAMA RAO) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS

*291 *Q.*—(Sri M. D. Kumaraswami Mudaliyar who had given notice of the question was absent). SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN:—"May I put the question, Sir?"

MR. PRESIDENT:—"Has the hon. Member the written permission from Mr. Kumaraswami Mudaliyar?"

SRI RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN:—"No, Sir."

MR. PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member may put the question."

Medical report on the health of Sri E. V. Ramaswami Naicker.

Q.—Sri RAO BAHADUR M. RAMAN MENON on behalf of Sri M. D. Kumaraswami Mudaliyar: Will the Hon. the Prime Minister be pleased to plaec on the table the report of Dr. M. R. Guruswami Mudaliyar about the health of Periyar Ramaswami Naicker?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARIAR:—"According to the prevailing practice, detailed medical reports on individuals cannot be published. The prisoner's health is satisfactory, apart from age and chronic ailments which cannot be helped."

Particulars about the action taken by the Superintendent, Central Jail, Trichinopoly, regarding release of certain persons involved in Kadayanallur rioting case.

*292 *Q.*—S. K. AHMED MEERAN SAHIB BAHADUR: Will the Hon. the Minister for Law be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the High Court ordered on the 20th April 1939 (in Cr.R.C. No. 859 of 1938) releasing all the 27 accused involved in the Kadayanallur rioting case;

(*b*) whether the Superintendent of the Central Jail, Trichinopoly, released only 18 persons on the 21st April 1939;